

**METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR PERCUTANEOUSLY ACCESSING A
PRESSURE ACTIVATED IMPLANTED PORT**

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 Methods and apparatus for percutaneously accessing an implanted port using
an access tube which is periodically introduced to the implanted port. The apparatus is
preferably an implantable port having a pressure-responsive valve element. It has been found
that repeated passage of the access tube through the same tissue tract to the implantable port
reduces patient trauma, with minimized bleeding and reduction in sensitivity. The tract may
10 be initially formed by percutaneously placing a penetrating element through intact skin to the
port and leaving the element in place for a time sufficient to created the tract.

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09595167 " 081500